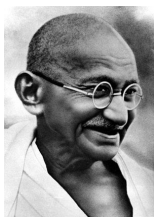


Summer 2012 in India:

An Immersion Experience in Nonviolent Thought and Action



"If we don't teach our children peace, someone else will teach them violence."

~Colman McCarthy

Purpose: The brutality of the world's past and present has revealed the critical need for alternate means to resolving conflict. Nonviolence (*ahimsa*, in Sanskrit), not to be confused with pacifism, is a powerful tool for creating change; it is hard work, but constructive, fearless, empowering, and above all, inspiring to all who witness it. Transforming the world begins with transforming individuals, and this program seeks to inspire participants with the power of ahimsa. Because the most meaningful learning often comes from experience, this program will turn India into a classroom where participants are immersed in a lifestyle of ahimsa for the duration of the program.

Participants will gain a multifaceted understanding of ahimsa and learn about a community that over thousands of years, despite all adversities, never walked away from or compromised with nonviolence in thought and action. In addition, participants will see ahimsa as a living methodology that will touch the minds and hearts of the participants not only as a method for creating social change, but also as a way of life.

This program is being offered specifically for educators because of the significant impact teachers can have on their students. Year after year, our children study endless wars and horrific, violent conflicts; if our universal aim is to achieve peace, why not *teach* it?

DATES: JULY 1-21, 2012

What will we learn and discuss?

During the course of the three week program, participants will...

- Learn the basics of ahimsa, its foundation, and its scope;
- Discuss nonviolent social interactions like tolerance, equanimity, forgiveness, friendship, and self-restraint;
- See why ahimsa occupies such a pivotal role in Jainism and the Jain community;
- Read case studies about ahimsa in literature and discuss them with fellow participants;
- Study the economics of ahimsa;
- Study famous practitioners of ahimsa who were the movers and shakers in the human race;
- Study Gandhi and how he was influenced by Jain teachings about ahimsa;
- Discover a common thread of ahimsa in other world traditions;
- Relate the practice of ahimsa to the protection of the environment, and thus the human race.

Discussions will be led by practitioners of nonviolence, as well as scholars in India.

LOCATIONS: DELHI, ALIGARH, JAIPUR & VARANASI

What will we do?

During the course of the three week program, participants will be immersed in ahimsa. This means they will....

- Practice nonviolence in mind, body, speech, and consumption;
- Study the landscape of the practice of ahimsa in such fields as food, medicine, health and health delivery, conflict resolution, race relations, investment, use of labor, human relationship, human trade, clothing, body beautification and decoration, sports, entertainment, and more;
- Interact with living examples of the practice of ahimsa by meeting Jain monks, nuns, businessmen, administrators, policemen, politicians, medical practitioners, engineers, and others;
- Visit schools and hostels where children live and practice nonviolence;
- Visit Gandhi's cremation grounds, museums, and other places of historical interest;
- Experience practical training lessons in ahimsa, meditation, and spiritual uplifting;
- Experience why the practice of ahimsa is so essential to the protection and growth of the human race.

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The Details



The Program

Study will take place in Delhi, Aligarh, Jaipur, and Varanasi.

This program is based on experiential learning, summarized by the acronym, L.O.V.E.:

- Learn in the classroom,
- Observe all over,
- Visualize or contemplate, and
- Experience.

Intensive course work entails morning lectures, afternoon discussions, field trips to institutions practicing nonviolence, such as schools, hospitals, and businesses, time in a few ancient Jain sites, interaction with people who live a nonviolent life-style, as well as conversations with learned scholars. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to develop new ideas and add breadth and depth to your curriculum through collaboration with like-minded, enthusiastic colleagues.

Weekly or so term papers will be submitted; if credit hours are requested, then a paper is to be submitted at the end of the course on a predetermined and agreed-upon topic.

About the Program Coordinator: This program is being coordinated by Laura Hirshfield, an English teacher at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, in Acton, MA. Laura has been teaching English for six years, and after attending a summer institute at the Ahimsa Center at Cal Poly Pomona in 2011, she was inspired by nonviolent living, its possibilities for curricular innovation, and the opportunity to work with likeminded colleagues to build a community of passionate, empowering educators.

A guest speaker talked to Laura's classes about non-violent living and led her to the ISJS, where the idea for a summer program for teachers took root. She has since volunteered to help initiate this program, and looks forward to making it a valuable, memorable, and inspirational experience for participants.

I have no experience or background in this area — is this okay?

- Yes! Any educator with the desire to learn and inspire his or her students with a viable, powerful, and constructive alternative to violence is encouraged to participate. Course lectures include an introduction to ahimsa, for those unfamiliar with the practice.

What is the cost?

- This program is subsidized by the International School for Jain Studies (ISJS), a non-profit organization devoted to the promotion of ahimsa. Participants will pay \$600 to ISJS to help cover the cost of boarding, lodging, and inland travel in India associated with the program. ISJS provides twin shared air cooled rooms with western facilities and vegetarian meals are provided.
- Participants will arrange their own travel to and from their home country to India and purchase visas (about \$70) at their own cost. A travel agency will be recommended (not required).
- Optional 3 credit hours from Mangalayatan University will cost an additional \$300.

As a teacher, how will I use what I learn?

- The goal of this program is to serve as a foundation for creative curriculum enhancement. Practical applications of ahimsa exist across disciplines; this program enlists creative, passionate educators to collaborate and determine the best ways to incorporate ahimsa into their respective classrooms to help students appreciate nonviolent living. Ample time will be afforded for this type of reflection and curriculum development.

What about the future, when I get back home?

- ISJS supports the ongoing queries and inquisitiveness of participants through ISSJS alumni electronically. Contact groups will be set up to facilitate continued collaboration and support.

Sounds great! How can I sign up? When is the deadline?

- Email Laura Hirshfield at TeachersinIndia@gmail.com to express interest. **We must hear from you by March 15, 2012** in order to have sufficient preparation time.

This program was designed in affiliation with the International School for Jain Studies (ISJS). Since 2005, ISJS has served as a bridge between nonviolence practitioners and scholars in India and the academic world by offering intensive, experience-based courses of study. This program presents the new and exciting opportunity to bring this experience to classroom teachers. Visit their website at www.jainstudies.org for more information about their work and achievements.



If you are interested in this opportunity or would like more information, please contact Laura Hirshfield at TeachersinIndia@gmail.com